



Dr. Mike Jones of the University of California Cooperative Extension installed 15 study plots on the Parlin burn in October to better define the weather and fuel moisture conditions for the Redwood Fire Fuels Mitigation Study. The burn provided multiple benefits: training, research and ecological restoration.

RESEARCH: October's Parlin prescribed burn teaches us about the restorative powers of fire, and the important research underway at JDSF

October's prescribed burns, located in the Parlin area of JDSF, provided community members and forestry professionals multiple benefits, including training, research, and ecological restoration to name a few. Not only did the burn operation help to clear dry and flammable forest understory, but it also helped the research team build the Redwood Fire Fuels Mitigation Study to better define the weather and fuel moisture conditions to burn under in the future for their study while providing new and seasoned fire fighters valuable real-world experience.

Prescribed fire benefits California's fire-adapted ecosystems and decreases wildfire risk to nearby communities. Implemented properly, prescribed fires can have additional benefits that extend beyond any individual prescribed burn's perimeter.

[Learn More](#)



CAL FIRE Prescribed Fire Chief and Tribal Liaison Len Nielson, Sherwood Valley Tribal Preservation Officer Valerie Stanley and JDSF staff distinguish between acorns that are and are not infested with weevils. The photo on the right shows the whole acorn with the entry mark. The split acorn shows the interior damage done by the weevil.

Maintaining tradition & learning about Tan Oak restoration and acorn collection with tribal partners

Last month, JDSF and CAL FIRE unit staff were joined by Valerie Stanley, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, and Tribal Elder, from the Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians to evaluate the potential for Tan Oak restoration and discuss collaboration opportunities for the project. The goal of this restoration project would improve acorn health and harvesting potential by burning the understory, in turn helping to maintain the forest for contemporary uses for local native peoples.

Tan Oak acorns, once dropped to the ground, are quickly infested with weevils, which make them unfit for collection. Using prescribed fire to burn the understory, acorns infested with weevils are burnt off, and when new acorns drop the spread of weevils is slowed. This allows more time for acorns to remain on the ground and be collected. During the tour, participants learned how to quickly identify weevil-infested acorns and the importance of this tradition. CAL FIRE is proud to partner with and learn from tribal expertise in JDSF.



Students spent a day in the woods at JDSF learning about what professional foresters do, the tools they use and practicing basic forestry skills.

DEMONSTRATION: When Willits High School comes to visit: JDSF and CAL FIRE staff inspire the next generation of foresters

Workforce development and inspiring the next generation of foresters is a priority for CAL FIRE and JDSF is a great place to learn about a variety of sustainable forestry topics. Kyle Farmer of the UC Cooperative Extension and Fey Egan, Forester with CAL FIRE, led an informative tour of JDSF supported by Forestry Aides. Throughout the tour, students gained valuable insight into the many career opportunities available in the woods.

JDSF Forestry Aides instructed the students on how forestry measurements are collected and demonstrated using tools of the trade. Students then practiced these skills by measuring plots and confirming the results of the Whiskey Springs Long-Term Coast Redwood Density Management Study, which showed that thinned stands of forest developed larger diameter trees. The students then heard from JDSF Forester Jeremiah Steuterman about a Cal Poly Humboldt study looking at varying forest densities and aggregations of thinning, and the role of pre-commercial harvest in improving long term forest growth.



Forest Ecologist Robert Douglas, introduces three of the most commonly encountered snakes at the JDSF: Western terrestrial, common, and aquatic garter snakes.

Into the Woods with Ecologist Robert Douglas

Garter snakes are one of the most frequently encountered snakes in coastal Mendocino County during the months of March through October, or during extended warm periods in winter. In our area, there are three species of garter snake: western terrestrial garter snake, aquatic garter snake, and the common garter snake.

Western terrestrial and common garter snakes are considered terrestrial-generalist predators and take a diversity of prey including fish, amphibians, invertebrate, small mammals, birds, and other reptiles; while the aquatic garter snake is an aquatic specialist that forages primarily in aquatic habitat for fish, aquatic amphibians, and invertebrates.

Click below to learn how aquatic garter snakes use 'lingual luring' to attract their prey.

[Learn More](#)



The CAL FIRE crew, hard at work providing some much-needed TLC to the Camp 20 Day Use Area. The day use area is open year-round and is located halfway between Willits and Fort Bragg on Hwy 20.

RECREATION: Stewarding the forest for all visitors. We bet you didn't know everything that the Camp 20 Day Use Area offered

A small crew of fire fighters and JDSF staff restored and improved conditions at the Camp 20 Day Use Area recently. Located off Highway 20, the day use area is near the mid-point between Willits and Fort Bragg, and a popular stopping place for families and travelers. Camp 20 was also one of the last logging camps (1939-1955) servicing the Caspar Eastern Railroad that delivered logs to the Caspar Mill (1862-1955) in Caspar, CA. Today, Camp 20 is a day use area often visited by communities members and tourists looking to rest, walk the dog, or enjoy the forest environment. An interpretive display is located next to a "stream

donkey” that was used for log skidding during the early logging era. And directly across Highway 20, within view, is a nearly 80-acre old growth grove. For a closer look, visitors can access the lower portion of the grove along the Demonstration Trail. It's a short trail, but big on scenery, where old-growth redwood trees can be observed as well as several common plant species.

Maintenance work included painting the restroom facility, sanding/treating the redwood kiosk, pressure washing, removing graffiti, signage, picnic tables and placement of 2-ton rip rap along the perimeter of the open grass field. Last year, paving the turnout was performed as part of an agreement between CALFIRE and Cal Trans to widen a section of Highway 20. These improvements demonstrate JDSF's commitment to stewarding the forest for all visitors and providing recreation opportunities for everyone. Next time you see it, stop in and check it out and send us your photos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Shaded fuel breaks are utilized throughout JDSF and are a key tool in preventing wildfire spread while helping protect communities.

Fuel Break Community Listening & Planning Event - November 16. Join us

A team consisting of CAL FIRE, the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, the Mendocino County Fire Safe Council, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the Mendocino County Prescribed Burn Association **will host a Fuel Break Community Listening and Planning Session at the Caspar Community Center on November 16th from 6 PM - 8PM.**

Learn more about strategic fuel breaks throughout JDSF and how new fuel breaks will be planned and implemented in collaboration with JDSF's neighbors.

[Learn More](#)

Area closures now in effect at Jackson Demonstration Forest for two timber harvest plans (THPs)

For the safety of the public and workers, several areas pertaining to the Chamberlain

Confluence and Caspar 500 THPs are closed through February 10, 2023. For more information on these closures and to view the closure map, click the link below.

[Learn More](#)



This photo taken post harvest at the Red Tail Timber Sale shows the black paint of a tree that was unmarked after CAL FIRE's commitment to not cut trees over 48". The orange marked tree is designated as a Potential Elder Tree (PET), another key element of the new Vision for Jackson Demonstration State Forest.

Chamberlin THP Complete. Red Tail THP Underway

Contractors on the Red Tail Timber Sale have resumed operations after CAL FIRE instituted a temporary pause in June 2021 to provide for public and contractor safety. Some logs over 48" diameter breast height (4 feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree) that were cut prior to the pause are now being brought to the roads for shipping to local manufacturing facilities where they will become sustainable, long-lived forest products. CAL FIRE is honoring the commitment made in the [new vision for Jackson Demonstration State Forest](#). JDSF staff have revisited all unharvested areas of the Red Tail THP to unmark remaining trees over 48" diameter breast height that were previously marked for harvest.

The Chamberlin Timber Sale logging operations were completed in October with slash treatments continuing throughout the winter. Final road work will be complete in Spring 2023.



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